IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a listing of the claims in the application with claims 1,11-12, 14-15, 17, 29, 33, 36, 39 and 42 shown as amended and claims 2-4, 9, 19-23 and 48-53 cancelled.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended)   Method for an operator to dynamically and remotely control the pairing of digital data reception equipment (2) with one or more external security modules (6, 8) each having a unique identifier and with each security module being adapted to cooperate with said digital data reception equipment for controlling reception of distributed data by means of said digital data reception equipment (2) and with the digital data reception equipment having a computer and a stored program said method comprising the following steps:

using the computer to <u>verify</u> ~~verity~~ whether or not the identifier of said external security modules (6, 8) is <u>already</u> memorized in <u>an updated list of external security module identifiers transmitted to</u> the digital data reception equipment (2), upon connection of said external security modules (6, 8) to the digital data reception equipment,

if the unique identifier of the external security modules (6, 8) is memorized in the digital data reception equipment (2), transmitting a control signal to the digital data reception equipment (2) defining configuration parameters to activate the pairing of said digital data reception equipment (2) with said external security modules (6, 8), and

if the unique identifier of the external security modules (6, 8) is not memorized in the digital data reception equipment (2), transmitting a control signal to the digital data reception equipment (2) defining configuration parameters to deactivate the pairing of said digital data reception equipment (2) with said external security modules (6, 8); wherein

said configuration parameters include at least one of the following functional parameters:

_____ authorizing memorization,

_____ prohibiting memorization,

_____ erasing identifiers previously memorized in the digital data reception equipment (2), and

_____ activating or deactivating a verification phase including a procedure consisting of disturbing the data processing if the identifier of the connected external security module (6, 8) is not previously memorized in the digital data reception equipment (2).

Claims 2-4 (cancelled).

5. (previously amended)   The method according to claim 1, wherein said control signal also includes an indication as to the maximum allowable number of identifiers to be memorized in the digital data reception equipment (2).

6. (previously amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said configuration parameters includes a reconfiguration instruction through which an

updated list of identifiers of external security modules (6, 8) paired with the digital

data reception equipment (2) is transmitted to said digital data reception equipment

(2).

  7. (previously amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein said

updated list of identifiers is transmitted directly to the digital data reception

equipment (2).

  8. (previously amended)   The method according to claim 6, wherein

said updated list of identifiers is transmitted through the external security module (6,

8) connected to said digital data reception equipment (2).

  9. (cancelled).

  10. (previously amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said

distributed data is either unencrypted or is encrypted by means of an encrypted

control word and in that each external security module (6, 8) includes access rights

to said data and a decryption algorithm for said control word.

  11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1[4], wherein said

configuration parameters are transmitted to the digital data reception equipment (2)

in an EMM message specific to an external security module (6, 8) associated with

said digital data reception equipment (2).

12. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1[4], wherein said configuration parameters are transmitted to a digital data reception equipment (2) in an EMM message specific to said digital data reception equipment (2).

13. (previously amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein for a given digital data reception equipment (2), said updated list of identifiers is transmitted in an EMM message specific to a security module (6, 8) associated with this digital data reception equipment (2).

14. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1[4], wherein said configuration parameters are transmitted to a group of digital data reception equipment (2) in an EMM message specific to a group of external security modules (6, 8) associated with said digital data reception equipment (2).

15. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1[4], wherein said configuration parameters are transmitted to a group of digital data reception equipment (2) in an EMM message specific to said group of digital data reception equipment (2).

16. (previously amended)   The method according to claim 6, wherein for a given group of digital data reception equipment (2), said updated list of identifiers of external security modules (6, 8) is transmitted in an EMM message specific to a said given group of external security modules (6, 8) associated with said digital data reception equipment (2).

17. (currently amended)   The method according to claim <u>1</u> [4], wherein the configuration parameters for the verification phase are transmitted to a group of digital data reception equipment (2) using dedicated software executable in each digital data reception equipment (2) according to the identifier of the external security module associated with said digital data reception equipment.

18. (previously amended)   The method according to claim 6, wherein for a given group of digital data reception equipment (2), said updated list of identifiers of external security modules (6, 8) is transmitted to each digital data reception equipment (2) in a private flow processed by a dedicated software executable in each digital data reception equipment according to the identifier of the external security module associated with said digital data reception equipment.

Claims 19–23 (cancelled).

24. (previously amended)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the identifiers of the external security modules (6, 8) are grouped in an encrypted list.

25. (previously amended)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the digital data reception equipment (2) includes a decoder and the external security modules (6, 8) include access control cards (6) in which information about access rights of a subscriber to digital data distributed by an operator is memorized, and in that pairing is done between said decoder and said access control cards (6).

26. (previously amended)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the digital data reception equipment (2) includes a decoder and the external security module (6, 8) includes a removable security interface (8) provided with a non-volatile memory that can cooperate firstly with the decoder, and secondly with a plurality of conditional access control cards (6) to manage access to digital data distributed by an operator, and wherein pairing is done between said decoder and said removable security interface (8).

27. (previously amended)   The method according to claim 1, wherein the digital data reception equipment (2) includes a decoder provided with a removable security interface (8) with a non-volatile memory that can cooperate firstly with said decoder, and secondly with a plurality of conditional access control cards (6), and wherein pairing is done between said removable security interface (8) and said access control cards (6).

28. (previously amended)   The method according to claim 10, wherein the data are audiovisual programs.

29. (currently amended) Digital data reception equipment (2) for pairing to one or more external security modules (6, 8) each having a unique identifier to manage access to digital data distributed by an operator, comprising means for executing a computer program stored in a readable medium for:

verifying whether or not the identifier in said external security modules (6, 8) is already memorized in the digital data reception equipment (2) upon connection of said external security modules (6, 8) to the digital data reception equipment,

activating the pairing of said digital data reception equipment (2) with said external security modules (6, 8) if the unique identifier of the external security modules (6, 8) is already memorized in <u>an updated list of external security module identifiers transmitted to</u> the digital data reception equipment (2), and

deactivating the pairing of said digital data reception equipment (2) with said external security modules (6, 8) if the unique identifier in the external security modules (6, 8) is not already memorized in the digital data reception equipment (2).

30. (previously amended)   The digital data reception equipment according to claim 29, further comprising a decoder and wherein the external security module (6, 8) is an access control card (6) containing information about access rights of a subscriber to said digital data, pairing being done between said decoder and said access control card (6).

31. (previously amended)   The digital data reception equipment according to claim 29, further comprising a decoder and wherein the external security module (6, 8) is a removable security interface (8) provided with a non-volatile memory and that is designed to cooperate firstly with said decoder, and secondly with a plurality of conditional access control cards (6), to manage access to said digital data, pairing being done between said decoder and said removable security interface (8).

32. (previously amended)   The digital data reception equipment according to claim 29, further comprising a decoder provided with a removable security interface (8) with a non-volatile memory designed to cooperate firstly with

said decoder and secondly with a plurality of conditional access control cards (6) and wherein pairing is done between said removable security interface (8) and said access control cards (6).

33. (currently amended)   A decoder that can cooperate with a plurality of external security modules (6, 8) to manage access to audiovisual programs distributed by an operator, each external security module (6, 8) having a unique identifier and including at least one data processing algorithm, ~~with said decoder in~~ comprising means responsive to said data processing algorithm for ~~executing orders sent by the operator for:~~

verifying whether or not the identifier of said external security modules (6, 8) is already memorized in <u>an updated list of external security module identifiers transmitted to</u> the digital data reception equipment (2) upon connection of said external security modules (6, 8) to the digital data reception equipment,

activating the pairing of said digital data digital data reception equipment (2) with said external security modules (6, 8) if the unique identifier of the external security modules (6, 8) is already memorized in the digital data reception equipment (2), and

deactivating the pairing of said digital data reception equipment (2) with said external security modules (6, 8) if the unique identifier of the external security modules (6, 8) is not already memorized in the decoder.

34. (previously amended)   The decoder according to claim 33, wherein said external security modules (6, 8) are access control cards (6) in which are stored

information about access rights of a subscriber to digital data distributed by an operator.

35. (previously amended)   The decoder according to claim 33, wherein said external security modules (6, 8) are removable security interfaces (8) including a non-volatile memory that can cooperate firstly with the decoder and secondly with a plurality of conditional access control cards (6) to manage access to digital data distributed by an operator.

36. (currently amended) Removable security interface (8) including a non-volatile memory designed to cooperate firstly with digital data reception equipment (2) having a decoder and secondly, having a plurality of ~~conditional~~ access control cards (6), to manage access to digital data distributed by an operator, each access control card (6) having a unique identifier and containing information about access rights of a subscriber to said digital data, with said removable security interface further comprising means for recording the identifier of each access control card (6) in said non-volatile memory, and at least one data processing algorithm for use by said decoder to activate or deactivate the pairing of the reception equipment to the control cards.

37. (previously amended)   The removable security interface according to claim 36, comprising a PCMCIA card on which is installed digital data descrambling software.

38. (previously amended)   The removable security interface according to claim 36, which consists of a software module.

39. (currently amended) An executable computer program stored in a computer readable medium of a digital data reception equipment (2) that can cooperate with a plurality of external security modules (6, 8) each having a unique identifier and in which information about access rights of a subscriber to digital data distributed by an operator are stored, said digital data reception equipment (2) comprising a computer for executing said executable computer program, wherein the executable computer program includes instructions for:

verifying whether or not the identifier of said external security modules (6, 8) is already memorized in a list of external security modules transmitted to the digital data reception equipment (2) upon connection of said external security modules (6, 8) to the digital data reception equipment,

activating the pairing of said digital data reception equipment (2) with said external security modules (6, 8) if the unique identifier in the external security modules (6, 8) is already memorized in the digital data reception equipment (2), and

deactivating the pairing of said decoder with said external security modules (6, 8) if the unique identifier in the external security modules (6, 8) is not already memorized in the decoder.

40. (previously amended)   The computer program according to claim 39, further comprising instructions for locally generating pairing control parameters of the digital data reception equipment (2) with an external security module (6, 8) as

a function of a control signal transmitted to said digital data reception equipment (2) by the operator.

41. (previously amended)   The computer program according to claim 39, further comprising instructions for checking if the identifier of said external security module (6, 8) is memorized in the digital data reception equipment (2), at each connection the external security module (6, 8) with the digital data reception equipment (2).

42. (currently amended) A system comprising a management platform (1) and a digital data reception equipment (2) connected to a services broadcasting network for communication with the digital data reception equipment and with the digital data reception equipment (2) being paired with a plurality of external security modules (6, 8), each having a unique identifier, wherein the system further comprises:

a first module arranged in said commercial management platform (1) for generating pairing queries, and

a second module arranged in said digital data reception equipment (2) that will process the generated queries from the first module to prepare a pairing configuration to control said pairing, using pairing control parameters generated by a computer in said digital data reception equipment based upon

verifying whether or not the identifier of said external security modules (6, 8) is already memorized in an updated list of external security module identifiers transmitted to the digital data reception equipment (2) upon connection of said

external security modules (6, 8) to the digital data reception equipment,

activating the pairing of said digital data reception equipment (2) with said external security modules (6, 8) if the unique identifier of the external security modules (6, 8) is already memorized in the digital data reception equipment (2), and

deactivating the pairing of said decoder with said external security modules (6, 8) if the unique identifier of the external security modules (6, 8) is not already memorized in the decoder.

43. (previously amended)   The method according to claim 5, wherein said control signal is transmitted to a digital data reception equipment (2) in an EMM message specific to an external security module (6, 8) associated with said digital data reception equipment (2).

44. (previously amended)   The method according to claim 5, wherein said control signal is transmitted to a digital data reception equipment (2) in an EMM message specific to said digital data reception equipment (2).

45. (previously amended)   The method according to claim 5, wherein said control signal is transmitted to a group of digital data reception equipment (2) in an EMM message specific to a group of external security modules (6, 8) associated with said digital data reception equipment (2).

46. (previously amended)   The method according to claim 5, wherein said control signal is transmitted to a group of digital data reception equipment (2) in an EMM message specific to said group of digital data reception equipment (2).

47. (previously amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein the message for managing the verification phase is transmitted to a group of digital data reception equipment (2) using dedicated software executable in each digital data reception equipment as a function of the identifier of the external security module associated with said digital data reception equipment.

Claims 48-53 (cancelled).